



# FEMA

## *All Dressed Up to Brave the Wind*

**Brazoria County, TX** – During man-made and natural disasters, the Freeport Fire and EMS Department is designated as the Emergency Operations Center and the Freeport Police Department as the Incident Command Post for the city of Freeport and several surrounding cities.

After years of the tedious task of boarding up the buildings to secure them during impending disasters, the city applied for and received a grant to install hurricane shutters.

The shutter retrofit project began in August 2006 and was completed June 2007 at a cost of \$38,394. Freeport received a grant of \$28,795 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).

HMGP pays 75 percent on approved projects that will prevent or reduce damage from storms and other natural disasters. These grants are made available for both public and private projects.

Hurricane shutters were a logical choice because they save lives and property. The demand continues to grow as more individuals realize their value, and they offer more than just protection from hurricane-force winds and flying debris.

Depending on the type of shutter, they can add security, increase the resale value of property, decrease chances of looting and theft, give protection from outdoor noise, allow for light control, add visual appeal to homes and buildings, and decrease insurance premiums.

In addition, they act as a time-saver. "One of the problems that we've run into in the past is that when a storm is imminent a lot of windows have to be boarded up. It's very labor intensive. Another problem is when you have an EOC such as our building and you keep a crew back for a storm with all the windows boarded up it gets to be a little claustrophobic," said Stanford.

Electric roll-down shutters were placed on all windows and doors of the police department. A manual override was also installed in the event of power loss. The fire department also has electric roll-downs on the first floor as well as manual roll-downs on the second.



**Brazoria County,  
Texas**



### **Quick Facts**

Sector:

**Public**

Cost:

**\$38,394.00 (Actual)**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Retrofitting, Non-structural**

Primary Funding:

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**